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DEPT FOR SCA - PDAS MOON AND DAS KROL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/11/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [KG](#)

SUBJECT: MANAS: SARBAYEV SAYS HE WILL SIGN, BUT WANTS  
AGREEMENTS KEPT SECRET UNTIL MID-JUNE

REF: A. BISHKEK 443

[B](#). BISHKEK 429

[C](#). STATE 43050

[D](#). BISHKEK 427

[E](#). BISHKEK 378

[F](#). BISHKEK 349

Classified By: Ambassador Tatiana C. Gfoeller, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#). (S) This cable contains two action requests at paragraphs 10 and 11.

[2](#). (S) Summary: Foreign Minister Sarbayev told the Ambassador that he would sign the framework and transit center agreements as early as May 13 if the U.S. government pledged to keep silent about the agreements until June 20. Sarbayev said he needed the time to prepare public and Parliamentary opinion for the change in course on Manas. The Ambassador said she would relay the request for secrecy to Washington and strongly reiterated that the agreements need to be signed ASAP. End Summary.

[3](#). (S) The Ambassador and Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Kadyrbek Sarbayev met at the Ambassador's residence mid-afternoon on May 11. Sarbayev said that President Bakiyev had told him that he was authorized sign the Manas agreements as early as May 13, but the agreements must be kept secret. Sarbayev said he needed time to work with public opinion and the Parliament before he could roll-out the new agreements publicly. Sarbayev asked for U.S. assistance in preparing Kyrgyz public opinion, specifically by placing articles in the local Russian-language press describing the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

[4](#). (S) Sarbayev said that by the second half of June, once public opinion had been prepared, he would go before Parliament to present the new agreements for ratification. He said that their goal was to have everything completed by July 1.

[5](#). (S) Sarbayev pleaded for no more leaks about the discussions from the U.S. side. He said that our current stance -- that the governments continue to have discussions -- was acceptable, but further "embellishments" were creating problems. He said that if there were further leaks, then he would have trouble in Parliament. Sarbayev also raised concerns that opposition candidates for the July 23 Presidential election would use any leaked information against President Bakiyev in the campaign. Sarbayev claimed that one candidate, Dr. Jenishbek Nazaraliyev, has "friends in the United States" and had already figured out that "something" was going on regarding Manas.

[6](#). (S) Sarbayev asked the Ambassador for a guarantee that the

fact of the signing would be kept confidential until at least June 20. "If by tomorrow you call me with a solemn guarantee," Sarbayev said, "then I will sign the agreements."

¶17. (S) Sarbayev said that the role of Russia continued to be important. "We will need your support" against Russia, Sarbayev said, as there would be a severe backlash from Russia after Parliament ratifies the agreements. "Don't leave us alone in the room with Russia," he implored.

¶18. (S) The Ambassador said she would relay Sarbayev's points to Washington and strongly reiterated that the agreements need to be signed ASAP. She suggested meeting with Minister of Defense Kalyev and with President Bakiyev to discuss the agreements, and Sarbayev agreed that such meetings would be useful. Sarbayev said that Bakiyev had been "torn" over Manas, but that he had "sided with us," and "we need to keep the momentum." Sarbayev said a telephone call from President Obama after the signing -- "even if it's only two minutes" -- would help give Bakiyev "moral strength." He thought the same to be true about a telephone call from President Karzai.

¶19. (S) Comment: We are encouraged that Sarbayev said he is authorized to sign, but the fact that he wants to keep the agreements secret until June 20 raises a number of concerns. Bakiyev is changeable, and Sarbayev said that Bakiyev has been "torn" over Manas. Therefore, unfortunately, Sarbayev's signature will not seal the deal. If Sarbayev does sign, then we will need to follow through with whatever we can to keep Bakiyev's support for the agreements, most importantly a telephone call from President Obama. A Karzai phone call as soon as possible would be helpful. The Embassy will actively seek to place additional articles on the situation in Afghanistan, and post would appreciate the Department's assistance in providing articles for placement.

¶10. (S) Action request: Post asks the Department's concurrence for the Ambassador to seek meetings with President Bakiyev and Minister of Defense Kalyev. Post would appreciate receiving cleared talking points for such meetings.

¶11. (S) Second action request: We seek the Department's authorization for the Ambassador to assure Foreign Minister Sarbayev that the U.S. government will keep confidentiality regarding the agreements until June 20.

GFOELLER